

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended): A method for filtering incoming data from an external computer network, comprising:
- a firewall that is coupled to said external computer network;
  - a server computer system coupled to an internal computer network;
  - a plurality of clients that are coupled to said server computer system, said plurality of clients being unable to access said external computer network directly;
  - receiving, at said firewall, a document from said external computer network;
  - determining, by said firewall, whether said document is from a known blocked site;
  - in response to determining that said document is from a known blocked site,
  - blocking, by said firewall, said document without scanning said document;
  - determining, by said firewall, whether said document is from a known safe site;
  - in response to determining that said document is from a known safe site,
  - forwarding, by said firewall, said document to said server without scanning said document, all of said plurality of clients being permitted to access said forwarded document;
  - in response to determining that said document is not from a known blocked site or a known safe site, scanning, by said firewall, text fields included in said document the content of incoming data for pre-selected keyword(s);
  - blocking, by said firewall, the document if any of said text fields include the incoming data if the content that contains pre-selected keywords; [[and ]]
  - said server computer system being prohibited from receiving said document in response to said document being blocked; and
  - indicating that a site that sent said document is a known blocked site by adding, by said firewall, the address of a blocked said site to a filtering table.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the document incoming data is allowed to pass per standard service rules if the content does not contain pre-selected keyword(s).

4. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing an indication in said [[a]] filtering table of each known safe site ~~"known safe"~~ sites that can be passed per standard service rules without having to be scanned for pre-selected keywords.

5. (Currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of indicating that a site that sent said document is a known blocked site by adding, by said firewall, the address of a site to a filtering table further comprises adding the address of a blocked site to a filtering table, includes adding the address of the site to a "known-block" table when said site has sent a document that includes said pre-selected keywords so that the site will be blocked in the future without having its contents scanned for pre-selected keywords.

6. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the addition of a site to the filtering table is implemented using a strong text parsing language.

7. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the instance of the filter is periodically refreshed through a timed job on a Windows NT platform, a cron job on a UNIX platform, to enact the updated filtering tables.

8. (Currently amended): A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for filtering incoming data from an external computer network, the computer program product comprising:

a firewall that is coupled to said external computer network;

a server computer system coupled to an internal computer network;

a plurality of clients that are coupled to said server computer system, said plurality of clients being unable to access said external computer network directly;

instructions for receiving, at said firewall, a document from said external computer network;

instructions for determining, by said firewall, whether said document is from a known blocked site;

in response to determining that said document is from a known blocked site, instructions for blocking said document without scanning said document;

instructions for determining, by said firewall, whether said document is from a known safe site;

in response to determining that said document is from a known safe site, instructions for forwarding said document to said server without scanning said document, all of said plurality of clients being permitted to access said forwarded document;

in response to determining that said document is not from a known blocked site or a known safe site, instructions for scanning, by said firewall, text fields included in said document the content of incoming data for pre-selected keyword(s);

instructions for blocking, by said firewall, the document if any of said text fields include the incoming data if the content that contains pre-selected keywords; [[and]]

said server computer system being prohibited from receiving said document in response to said document being blocked; and

instructions for indicating that a site that sent said document is a known blocked site by ~~instructions for~~ adding, by said firewall, the address of said a blocked site to a filtering table.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended): The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising instructions for allowing the document incoming data to pass per standard service rules if the content does not contain pre-selected keyword(s).

11. (Currently amended): The computer program product according to claim 8, further comprising instructions for storing an indication in said ~~creating~~ a filtering table

of each known safe site ~~“known-safe”~~ sites that can be passed per standard service rules without having to be scanned for pre-selected keywords.

12. (Currently amended): The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for indicating that a site that sent said document is a known blocked site by adding, by said firewall, that address of said site to a filtering table further comprises adding the address of said a blocked site to a filtering table, includes instructions for adding the site to a “known-block” table when said site has sent a document that includes said pre-selected keywords so that the site will be blocked in the future without having its contents scanned for pre-selected keywords.

13. (Original): The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instructions for addition of a site to the filtering table are implemented in a strong text parsing language.

14. (Original): The computer program product according to claim 8, wherein the instance of the filter is periodically refreshed through a timed job on a Windows NT platform, a cron job on a UNIX platform, to enact the updated filtering tables.

15. (Currently amended): A system for filtering incoming data from an external computer network, the system comprising:

a firewall that is coupled to said external computer network;  
a server computer system coupled to an internal computer network;  
a plurality of clients that are coupled to said server computer system, said plurality of clients being unable to access said external computer network directly;  
said firewall for receiving a document from said external computer network;  
said firewall for determining whether said document is from a known blocked site;  
in response to determining that said document is from a known blocked site, said firewall for blocking said document without scanning said document;  
said firewall for determining whether said document is from a known safe site;

in response to determining that said document is from a known safe site, said firewall for forwarding said document to said server without scanning said document, all of said plurality of clients being permitted to access said forwarded document;

in response to determining that said document is not from a known blocked site or a known safe site, said firewall for means for scanning text fields included in said document ~~the content of incoming data~~ for pre-selected keyword(s);

said firewall for means for blocking the document if any of said text fields include incoming data ~~if the content that~~ contains pre-selected keywords; [[and]]

said server computer system being prohibited from receiving said document in response to said document being blocked; and

said firewall for indicating that a site that sent said document is a known blocked site by means for adding the address of a blocked said site to a filtering table.